

Senate Resolution 106 - Introduced

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 106

BY ANDERSON

1 A Resolution honoring the service of Briar Cliff
2 University President Bev Wharton.

3 WHEREAS, spring 2016 marks the culmination of
4 Bev Wharton's 15-year tenure as president of Briar
5 Cliff University, the longest among presidents in the
6 university's storied history; and

7 WHEREAS, under President Wharton's tenure, the
8 university's endowment increased by nearly one-third,
9 while the university's net assets have grown from \$18.6
10 million to nearly \$30 million; and

11 WHEREAS, in President Wharton's 15 years, Briar
12 Cliff has raised its academic status from that of a
13 college to that of a university, has twice been awarded
14 reaccreditation for the maximum 10 years, and has
15 launched several new graduate programs, including the
16 first and only doctoral degrees offered in northwest
17 Iowa — a doctor of nursing practice and a doctor of
18 physical therapy; and

19 WHEREAS, in that period, Briar Cliff University
20 established an online degree completion program and saw
21 its graduate enrollment expand eightfold; and

22 WHEREAS, in the past 15 years, the university has
23 earned national recognition for academic excellence,
24 including continuing distinction as a best regional
25 college, a top military-friendly school, and a STEM
26 jobs-approved college; and

27 WHEREAS, during President Wharton's tenure, student
28 experiential learning and service opportunities

1 expanded locally, nationally, and abroad, further
2 globalizing the student experience with the initiation
3 of regular mission trips to Honduras and Guatemala and
4 the initiation of an exchange program with the Catholic
5 University of Korea; and

6 WHEREAS, on campus during this period, the
7 university has undertaken major renovations,
8 established student learning communities, fostered
9 the highest level of student achievement in
10 entrepreneurship, and expanded student cocurricular
11 opportunities, including the addition of football,
12 dance, cheer, and men's volleyball programs; and

13 WHEREAS, President Wharton's service has extended
14 beyond the boundaries of the campus, having been
15 appointed by the Governor of Iowa to the Rebuild Iowa
16 Advisory Commission and having served as the first
17 woman chair of the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, as
18 co-chair of the committee that led to Sioux City's
19 designation as one of three "Great Places in Iowa",
20 as chair of the United Way of Siouxland, as interim
21 development director for the Catholic Schools of
22 Sioux City, as co-coordinator of the Sioux City
23 census project, as an advisory board member for the
24 Sioux City Growth Organization, and as chair of the
25 Council of Presidents for the Great Plains Athletic
26 Conference, and currently chairing the board of
27 directors for the Association of Franciscan Colleges
28 and Universities; and

29 WHEREAS, most importantly, President Wharton —
30 known by students simply as "Bev" — is known as the

1 students' president, as evidenced by her familiarity
2 with everyone on campus, her preference to eat lunch
3 with students, her ardent support of and appearances at
4 nearly every Briar Cliff University Charger athletic
5 or fine arts event, her extravagant Halloween costumes
6 (which have included the likes of Cher and Lady Gaga),
7 and even her willingness to stop and take "selfies"
8 with students, truly embodying the university's
9 motto — "service, caring, and openness to all"; NOW
10 THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate honors
12 Briar Cliff University President Bev Wharton for her 15
13 years of dedicated service to Briar Cliff University,
14 to the greater Sioux City region, and to the people of
15 Iowa, and wishes her an active, joyful, and engaging
16 retirement.